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# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. — James Monroe*

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

OCTOBER 27, 1941

## Fight On Neutrality Law Nearing Climax

Big Issue Is Over Arming Merchant Vessels and Letting Them Enter War Zones

### SHARP DEBATE IN CONGRESS

Conflicting Forces Are Divided Along the General Lines of Isolation vs. Intervention

Congress is giving prompt attention to President Roosevelt's recent request for revision of the Neutrality Act. The House of Representatives on October 17 voted—259 to 138—to repeal the section which prohibits the arming of American merchant vessels. The Senate this week is considering the same proposal and it is taken for granted that the measure will be enacted into law within a very short time.

Thus, one of the important features of the Neutrality Act, first passed in 1935, will soon be stricken from the statute books and the United States will begin to arm its vessels which carry supplies part of the way to the British Isles and to other parts of the world.

### Urgent Necessity

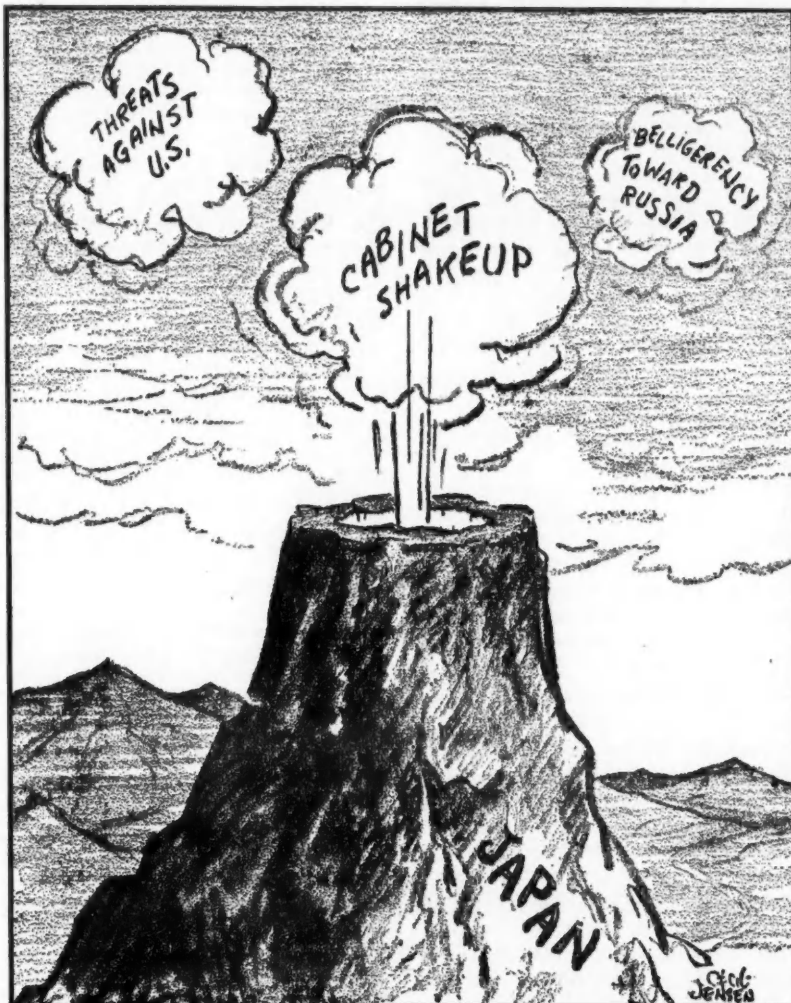
In his recent message, the President regarded the arming of merchant vessels as a matter of urgent necessity because of the number of sinkings that have taken place. With this nation committed to the policy of manufacturing the implements of war needed by England and the other countries fighting Hitler, it is imperative, he said, that the ships be protected by means of arms.

Permission to arm merchant ships is, however, only one of the changes in the Neutrality Act which the President seeks. He also wishes Congress to repeal the section of the act which prohibits American merchant ships from entering belligerent waters. It is likely, therefore, that revision of our neutrality law will command the attention of Congress for some time.

In seeking to modify the neutrality laws of the United States, the President is turning back to a traditional American policy. For more than 100 years before 1935, the United States had demanded certain rights upon the seas even in time of war. Throughout our history, we had insisted vigorously upon respect for these rights by belligerent nations. We became involved in two wars—the War of 1812 and the World War—at least partly because European warring nations failed to respect these rights.

It was because a majority of the members of Congress felt that insistence upon "freedom of the seas" had been partly responsible for our involvement in past wars that the original neutrality law was enacted. The Neutrality Act of 1935 was designed to place those restrictions upon the freedom of the seas which would

(Concluded on page 7)



Trial balloons

JENSEN IN CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

## New Tensions Rising In the Pacific Area

Japan Prepares for Crisis After Moderate Konoye Cabinet Gives Way to Army

### TALKS WITH U.S. CONTINUE

But Washington Sees Little Hope of Restraining Present Government by Peaceful Means

Despite the importance of the great battle raging west of Moscow, a great many eyes all over the world were watching Japan and the Pacific area last week. The relatively moderate cabinet of Prince Konoye had suddenly given way to a "crisis government" headed by General Eiki Tojo, because of certain differences of opinion "concerning the manner of executing national policy."

On the heels of this sudden shift a change in Japanese policy seemed imminent. The strong military flavor of the new cabinet suggested that it might bode trouble in the Pacific. Japanese ships had been sent to bring home Japanese citizens living in the United States. Tokyo newspapers adopted a warlike tone toward the United States. The Japanese navy, according to one of its spokesmen, was "itching for action." Tension was increased when the American Navy ordered merchant ships bound for the Orient to put into the nearest American or British port for instructions.

### Confusion

But for the most part the changes within Japan have produced little but confusion. A reader of the New York Times for October 18 and 19, seeking enlightenment, would find observers in various parts of the world interpreting Japanese developments to mean that Japan was about to (1) invade Russia from Manchukuo, (2) make war on both England and Russia as an ally of Hitler, (3) attack Thailand or British Malaya, and (4) begin a new all-out offensive in China. The gap in this circle of opinions was completed with a dispatch from the nation's capital with the head, "Washington Sees Lull in Far East." The fact of the matter is—neither in Japan nor anywhere else does there seem to be any clear idea of what Japan will do next.

Although observers seem of many minds as to what Japan actually will do, many agree that she may now be emerging from a protracted period of indecision. It is worth noting that the cabinet change did not come of a difference of opinion as to what national policy is, but as to how it shall be executed. Japanese policy has been clearly stated on many occasions. Simply stated, it is to gain domination over all of eastern Asia and the East Indies. Or, as Tokyo puts the matter, it is to establish a "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere."

(Concluded on page 6)

## A Depressing Experience

By Ruth G. Myer

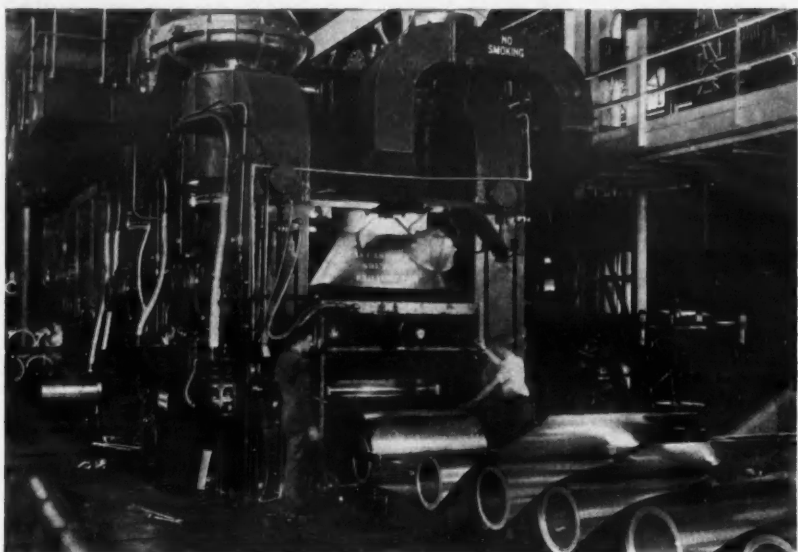
An important meeting was held in New York a few days ago. It was called by a youth organization which was committed to the support of the national defense effort. Hundreds of young men and women came together to further the program, to receive inspiration and instruction. The program was well planned, admirably designed to achieve the purposes which the promoters had in mind. There were addresses by popular and influential leaders. Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., presided. General Lewis B. Hershey was informative and interesting. Paul V. McNutt delivered an inspiring and challenging address. Following such speakers as these came a veritable galaxy of stars from Broadway, from Hollywood, from the radio. As the program unfolded, I wondered when and where such an array of talent from the fields of public affairs and public entertainment had been brought together in a single performance.

I was, myself, highly entertained by the stage, screen, and radio stars. I felt the challenge introduced by several of the speakers. I was stirred by McNutt's moving appeal. But I must confess that I did not leave the meeting in a spirit of inspiration or exhilaration, but rather with a sense of deep depression which I could not soon shake off. The impression I carried away was not of the speakers but the audience. I kept seeing again those hundreds of young people, most of them of college age, who sat inattentively through the meeting. A large number of them were vigorously chewing gum, which didn't add anything to the general appearance, but which was not, I suppose, a matter of deep significance. More disturbing was the fact that hundreds of them laughed and talked among themselves throughout the evening. They were plainly bored by the speakers, with the exception of Mr. McNutt, whose forceful message commanded the most attention. They listened to each entertainer for a moment then grew restless, noisily waited to see who the next star would be.

If those young people had been dragged in from the street, there might have been some excuse for their conduct. But they were a supposedly picked lot. Their very presence was a declaration of interest in the general subject and purpose of the meeting. But they were not thoughtful enough to give attention to the speakers, to listen to the facts and ideas which were set forth. Their interest was a surface matter. They were impatient seekers after entertainment, but too restless even to enjoy the entertainment when it was handed to them.

But why worry about it? There is reason enough, I think. The young people of America must be depended upon to carry the nation through days and years which will surely be critical. We are all deeply anxious, not that they do their work as well as we older people do ours, but better. They need to be better prepared for civic duties than the older generation is. The problems of tomorrow will be almost unbearably difficult. (Concluded on page 8, column 4)





ALUMINUM is among the most desperately needed metals for the defense program. The government is taking care to see that none of it is used for nondefense purposes. The above photo shows aluminum sheets being rolled out.

## The Week in Defense

The following information is based on material furnished by the Office of Government Reports.

In key industries, the government has set up a system of priorities—that is, defense orders are given a preference over nonessential items of production. Factories which do not comply with the government rules are liable to punishment. One firm, the Central Pattern and Foundry Company of Chicago, is already "under the axe" for its lack of cooperation. Donald Nelson, executive director of the Supply Priorities and Allocation Board, charged this firm with using "much-needed aluminum" to fill orders for coin-operated machines, kodak parts, and other nonessential items. By way of punishment, this firm, after it fills its present defense orders, which will take about three weeks, has been ordered to cease all aluminum operations until March 31, 1942.

WPA has issued a report on its national defense construction projects covering a six-year period. It shows that WPA workers have built a total of nearly 500 miles of airport runways—more than enough to be stretched into a 20-foot highway spanning the continent from New York to San Francisco. They have built 222 new airport landing fields, and have improved 360 others. They have erected more than 3,000 new buildings for the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, and National Guard, and reconstructed or improved 14,000 buildings for these agencies.

The Federal Works Agency announces that every 24 hours more than 200 homes are completed in the FWA program to provide dwellings for defense workers. This construction is at the rate of two rooms every minute of the working day. Since the end of June, 20,000 homes have been completed.

Many times more cork is used for industrial purposes, such as pipe covering and insulation material, than goes into bottle stoppers, fishing tackle bobbies, and other well-known cork products. Consequently, cork is an important defense item. All our supply of this product, in the raw stage, comes from the Mediterranean area close to the European war. The Department of Commerce reports, however, that the American cork industry has built

up a large enough surplus to take care of defense requirements for two years or so.

Price Administrator Henderson, speaking in Detroit, said that although the United States is producing 35 per cent more than ever before, only about 12 per cent of the total national income is going into defense. He said America is giving one hour out of eight for defense, and OPM schedules show this will be increased to two out of every eight by next June. Hitler, on the other hand, is using five out of every eight hours for the military. Mr. Henderson said production in the United States will keep mounting to whatever level "it takes to break the back of Hitler."

Transportation Commissioner Budd of the Office for Emergency Management says that during the Christmas holidays, traveling will be difficult because the railways and other carriers will be so crowded. He urges civilians to "do their traveling now and stay home during the holidays" to make room for the soldiers.

Quartermaster General Gregory, addressing the convention of the American Bakers Association in Boston, said: "Our studies have indicated that the Army is now better fed than 60 per cent of the civilian population, and these studies have been amply borne out by the fact that the average selectee gains 10 pounds after his induction into the Army."

The new government of Panama is supposed to be more friendly to the United States than the one which was recently overthrown. As a result, certain individuals and groups in our country have, openly or otherwise, expressed the view that the American government had a hand in the change which has taken place in Panama. Secretary Hull, in answer to these insinuations, issued a statement that he was "profoundly shocked by the glaring inaccuracies and willful misrepresentations set forth" in a newspaper dispatch on the subject of Panama. "Lest any individual be misled by such unfair tactics, I state clearly and categorically for the record that the United States government has had no connection, direct or indirect, with the recent government changes in the Republic of Panama. . . ."

## Radio and Movies

**D**R. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER, the distinguished Negro scientist who introduced the peanut as a southern crop and then developed from it 90 by-products of commercial value, headlined the second broadcast in the "Freedom's People" series over the NBC Red network last Sunday.

Dr. Carver, born a slave, is now head of the research laboratories he founded at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. His work in solving many of the South's agricultural problems has lessened its dependence upon cotton. He has improved the South's economic life by opening new avenues in farming and manufacturing. The broadcast sketched his life and he himself spoke briefly from Tuskegee.

"Freedom's People" is a new group of educational radio programs sponsored by a national advisory committee of white and Negro leaders in cooperation with the United States Office of Education. The programs are dramatized accounts of achievements by American Negroes in national defense, social services, industry, science, agriculture, and the arts. The four remaining programs will be given on Sundays, 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m., at monthly intervals.

**O**NE hundred years ago this month the first permanent symphony orchestra in the United States was founded by the Philharmonic Society of New York. In those days concerts were few, audiences were small, and wages paid to musicians generally low. On the first program of the orchestra was a "Grand Symphony in C Minor, Number Five" by a German named Beethoven who had been dead only 15 years.

This year, the greatly enlarged and now famous New York Philharmonic opened its season with the same symphony, now in special vogue because its opening notes sound the "Victory motive," that is—they beat out the dot-dot-dot-dash signal, which is Morse code for "V." Today the Philharmonic has no trouble at all in filling Carnegie Hall for its every concert. In addition, it has a very wide Sunday afternoon audience of radio listeners, many of them people who have been listening regularly for the past decade. The broadcasts, over CBS, are from 3 p.m. until the concert is over.

In celebration of its centennial, the Philharmonic has this year invited a number of conductors from other cities to supplement the work of the regular conductor, John Barbirolli. Among them are Leopold Stokowski, who opened the season, Dmitri Mitropoulos of Minneapolis; and Serge Koussevitsky, conductor of the Boston Symphony.

**T**HE caustic but clever wit of Clifton Fadiman has done much to make "Information Please" (Friday evening, NBC Red network, 8:30 p.m., EST) one of the five best programs on the air. So excellent in fact has this program been that in 1940 it was awarded the *Saturday Review of Literature* yearly award for having done most to elevate American taste. Coincidentally, in the same week it was awarded a medal from the *Hoboes of America*!

Fadiman's fame by no means rests entirely on his prowess as a master of ceremonies of the quiz program. Since 1933 he has been literary critic of the *New Yorker* magazine. Superficially his book reviews take a very flippant attitude, but underneath this pose is an impeccable judgment which has made the *New Yorker's* book pages "a power in the literary world." Previously Fadiman had been an editor for the publishing house of Simon and Schuster, during which time he became well known in literary circles as one of the country's leading editors.



Clifton Fadiman

**T**HE news dramatization program known as "The March of Time" has come back on the air after an absence of two years. It is heard every Thursday evening at 8 o'clock Eastern Standard Time on 111 stations of the National Broadcasting Company's Blue network. For the benefit of the west coast, the program is rebroadcast at 8 o'clock Pacific Standard Time.

The program was forced to go off the airways at the outbreak of the war because of a ruling by radio chains which barred the dramatization of controversial subjects. As the United States has itself moved closer to war, the ruling has been relaxed. "The March of Time" is put on by the people who publish the magazines *Time*, *Life*, and *Fortune*, and who also produce "The March of Time" newsreel. Like the newsreel, the radio production attempts to re-enact the outstanding news events, through the use of sound effects, dialogue, and even recordings of such things as crashing bombs, gunfire, and the roar of diving planes.

**D**EANNA DURBIN, in "It Started With Eve," makes good use of the opportunity to display her talents in the role of an older character than she has formerly played. As usual, her singing performance is excellent, and she gives notice to established adult stars that, although a newcomer to their ranks, she is no beginner.

The performance of Charles Laughton is convincingly realistic—undoubtedly the most finished portrayal given by any of the cast. He is a shrewd, crusty man of wealth, grandfather of the young millionaire (played by Robert Cummings) who marries Deanna. To give the story a Cinderella turn, Deanna starts out as a hat-check girl.

The picture is intended solely for entertainment, and in this respect it is one of the season's best.



From a scene in "It Started With Eve" RKO Keith's Theatres, Wash., D. C.



# Seeing South America...VIII

THE picture which you see in the upper right-hand corner of this page is of the Plaza San Martín, a large square near the center of Lima. The building at the right is the Gran Hotel Bolívar where we stayed while we were in the city. If you should stand in front of the hotel facing the square and then turn to your left, you would find yourself walking down the chief shopping street of Lima.

If you were not a particularly close observer, it would scarcely occur to you that you were in a foreign city. The street looks very much like one you might find in a good-sized city of the United States. There are quite a few smart shops and some fairly large stores, though I believe there is nothing like our large department stores.



Walter E. Myer

Many of the shops cater to tourists. They are filled with souvenirs of all kinds, particularly articles made by the Indians, such as blankets, shawls, and silver bracelets, necklaces and ornaments of various kinds.

Along certain of the streets, there are sidewalk cafes such as one finds in all Latin countries. Joan and I were particularly pleased to find that we could get coca cola in Lima. It was on sale in many places. This was the only city in South America where we found it. I understand that the Coca Cola company is building plants in many parts of South America and soon this popular American drink will apparently be on sale in most of the countries down there.

The people on the streets of Lima look very much like those you will see in an American city. They are a little darker on the average and probably on the whole are not so well dressed. But until you hear them speaking Spanish, you may almost forget that they are not Americans.

A number of public buildings in Lima are beautiful. Many of them are of marble construction and some of them represent modern ideas in architecture.

There are many fine homes in the wealthier sections of the city. The

architecture of these houses is frequently Spanish. Lima is said to be the most Spanish of all the large cities in South America. There are very pretty parks. In one part of the city there are particularly attractive olive groves.

There are, of course, poorer sections, as there are in all cities. The slum districts, however, are not so dark and dingy as those which deface some of our own larger cities. This is because the poor people do not live in large tenement houses. Some of them live in apartments, each of which houses several families, but there are many separate detached houses in the poorer districts; little boxlike affairs built of adobe or stucco.

The government has built a number of low-rent apartments for the poorer people and these are clean and attractive—at least when they are new. It is said that many of the families do not appreciate these quarters, however, and that they are not kept in good condition. This is, of course, not true of all cases.

## High School in Lima

We visited the largest high school of Lima, the National High School for Boys. The building, like the one in Quito, was rather poorly equipped. The floors were rough; the walls were bare and the classrooms were not well furnished. This is not because the Peruvians do not care for the better things. Nor is it because they do not know how to provide good equipment. They simply have not the money to provide beauty and conveniences such as those with which we are familiar in this country. Very frequently when we visited schools, we heard the remark: "Of course, you will not find here equipment such as you have in your country. We are poor and cannot afford such schools as you have."

Most of the boys and girls in Peru do not go to high school. They receive some schooling, but only the relatively well-to-do families send their children to high school. Most of those who attend the secondary schools are preparing for some profession.

Fewer courses are given than we find in our American schools. There are courses in history, science, mathematics, Spanish, and foreign languages, and there is not very much

outside these fields.

In Lima, as in other cities we visited, most of the high school students studied English. In this particular high school they were obliged to study English, French, or German, in addition to Spanish, and more than half of them had chosen to study English. Students dressed about as the young people do in American schools, played similar games, and in general their interests seemed to be about the same as in this country.

It was to be noticed, however, that little attention is paid to current history or to problems of government. This was true not only of the schools of Peru, but of schools throughout South America. There is little direct training in citizenship. Government in most of these countries is in the hands of a few, and people generally are not encouraged to interest themselves in governmental problems.

This is not a situation peculiar to South America, however. So far as I know, the United States is the only country in which a great deal of time is taken in the schools to teach young people about the problems of the day; the problems with which they must wrestle as citizens. Nowhere else does one find in the schools papers such as *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER* or the *Weekly News Review*, which are published especially for use in the study of current problems.

## Government of Peru

The government of Peru is democratic in form. Peru is a republic with a president at its head. It is well known, however, that the army officers are so powerful that ordinarily they control the government. It is unfortunate from our standpoint that this condition prevails, because the army officers as a class are known to be pro-German.

Most of the people of Peru seem to be anti-German. But one senses a difference in opinion here from that which he finds in Ecuador or Colombia. In Colombia there is a general feeling of hemisphere solidarity; a feeling that Colombia should stand with the United States as a matter of interest. In Ecuador many of the people look to the United States as a protector and feel that we will prevent their being overrun by Peru.

In Peru I think that the attitude is more cynical. I did not talk to enough people to be certain of this, but such is my impression. The Peruvians seem not to have a particularly friendly feeling for the United States, but they feel that they are obliged to go along with us. One well-informed Peruvian with whom I talked asked if I knew who the president of Peru was. I happened to know and gave him the name. He said, "Yes, Prado is president in name, but I mean the real president. The real president in Peru, the real power here, is the American Embassy. We can do nothing without its approval." I asked him how he felt about that, and he shrugged his



Plaza San Martín in Lima

shoulders and said, "Well of course we must have the money. We have to have loans from the United States."

This man also made the observation that while England, the United States, and Germany all try to dominate weaker nations like Peru, the English and Americans are more kindly and considerate. Their rule is softer. They permit the weaker countries to maintain independence, while Germany is likely to rule harshly and to deny independence to countries which it is able to control.

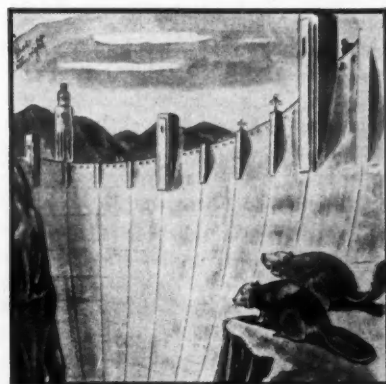
## ♦ SMILES ♦

Doctor: "How did you get so badly scraped?"

Patient: "It happened in a lake on the desert. I swam 50 yards before I found out the lake was a mirage."  
—SCRIPPAGE

"They say brunettes have sweeter dispositions than blondes."

"Well, my girl's been both, and I can't see any difference."  
—SELECTED



"This'll give you a rough idea of what I had in mind."  
CARTWRIGHT IN COLLIER'S

Business was quiet, so the two traveling salesmen decided to have a day's golf on a little country course. No caddy was available, but they managed to get a farm laborer to carry their bags.

At the end of the game, which was more vigorous than skillful, one golfer handed the man a good tip for his services.

The beaming laborer took it gleefully, and asked, "Excuse me, sir, will you and the other gent be digging again tomorrow?"  
—ANSWERS

Bill: "My wife's been nursing a grouch all week."

Joe: "I didn't know you'd been laid up."  
—CAPPER'S WEEKLY

G-Man: "You don't mean to say he got away? Didn't you have all the exits guarded?"

Constable: "Yep, I did. He musta gone out one of the entrances."  
—CAPPER'S WEEKLY



A group of school boys in Lima, Peru

GALLOWAY



# The Week at Home



ACME

WAR MATERIALS are beginning to flow in impressive proportions from American industry. Above is the newly developed Curtiss AT-9, a training plane which is scheduled for production in large quantities. It is designed to train men who will fly fast twin-engined fighters and bombers.

## Defense in High Gear

Encouraging light on the national defense effort is revealed in a recent report from the War Department. That department is now building a string of 82 government-owned plants, costing \$1,750,000,000, for the production of munitions. The latest report of Army experts shows that about a third of these plants are already engaged in actual mass production, and that the whole program of production of all kinds of matériel, from small-arms ammunition to armor plate, is within one per cent of schedule. One example of how production is really getting in high gear is the \$50,000,000 Radford plant in Virginia, which alone is producing 300,000 pounds of smokeless powder daily, several times more than was being produced in the entire nation when the war began. The Radford plant is just one of four similar plants.

Within the last three weeks, five other new plants have started turning out by mass production such materials as rifle and machine-gun ammunition, shells for infantry mortars, and high explosives for bombs, shells, and torpedoes. The ultimate goal is a munitions productive capacity able to fill the battle needs of 4,000,000 troops and at the same time to take care of demands from abroad. It is significant to note that in August 1939, when the war began, we had on hand barely enough ammunition for a single two-weeks battle on a scale similar to the Meuse-Argonne offensive during the World War.

## First Naval Casualty

Last week one of the newest and fastest ships of the United States Navy met disaster while on patrol duty in the North Atlantic. She was the U. S. S. *Kearny*, a slim, gray destroyer which was launched just last year.

Some 350 miles southwest of Iceland, within the German proclaimed war zone, but also within American defensive waters, the *Kearny* was struck by a torpedo, presumably from a German submarine. The destroyer was able to proceed under her own power into the nearest port, thought to be Reykjavik, Iceland, but 11 members of the crew of 200 are reported missing and 10 others injured as a result of the attack.

Significance of the torpedoing of the *Kearny* lies in the fact that it is

the first American naval casualty in the Battle of the Atlantic. One other destroyer, the *Greer*, was unsuccessfully attacked by submarine on September 4, and eight American-owned or operated merchant vessels have been sunk since the start of the war.

## Good Investment

Alaska, which we purchased from Russia in 1867 for \$7,200,000, is once more proving to be one of the best investments ever made by the United States. For the northern land of fish, furs, minerals, and timber is becoming one of the nation's most important outposts of defense.

It is a key link between Russia and the United States and between this country and the Far East. Should the need arise, Alaska could become the transfer point for military supplies being sent to Russia, because it lies on the closest and safest air route to the Soviet. On the other hand, only 700 miles separate a corner of Alaska and the northernmost point of Japan. It is 4,000 miles closer from New York to Japan by way of Alaska than by way of San Francisco.

Because of its nearness to the Far East, Alaska is a pivot point in our system of Pacific defenses. The territory is being crisscrossed with new military air networks. Fairbanks and Anchorage are becoming strong Army air bases, while Sitka, Kodiak, and Dutch Harbor are the scenes of growing naval air stations. The Navy is also strengthening its facilities for warships at these points, and Dutch Harbor especially is bristling with new fortifications. Little is being said about the work on this southwestern fingertip of Alaska, but it is going

to rank with the most important of the Navy's vital bases.

## Home Accidents

Streets and highways are but little more dangerous places than American homes. Last year, falls, burns, poisoning, and other household hazards claimed 33,000 lives—only 1,500 fewer than the number of deaths in traffic accidents.

Many of these fatal mishaps were caused by carelessness, which is also blamed for thousands of injuries, some temporary and some permanently crippling, occurring in homes each year. Slippery floors, toys on the stairs, shaky chairs employed as substitute stepladders, insecure rugs—these are leading enemies of home safety.

Local chapters of the American Red Cross are now distributing lists of home hazards with which one can check up on his own home and remove as many causes of accidents as possible. Nearly every home will be found to have some of these seemingly harmless pitfalls which, with the aid of the list, one may discover and remove before they cause trouble.

## Ambassador to Japan

Without question the tact and personal charm of Joseph Clark Grew have been major factors in maintaining peaceful relations between the United States and Japan. As ambassador to Japan since 1932, Grew has had an extremely difficult post to fill, for Japanese policies in the Far East have long since made Tokyo a diplomatic "hot spot." In spite of this fact he has established a record for successful diplomacy which few American foreign service men can equal.

These characteristics of tact, cool-headedness, and charm are well displayed in a famous and almost legendary story. At a dinner given by the American-Japan Society, a very bellicose speech was made by a Japanese official, warning that Japan would not tolerate any interference, from the United States, with her program of expansion in the Far East. Grew is somewhat hard of

H.R.E.  
Joseph C. Grew

hearing, and turned his weakness to good account on this occasion. When his turn came to speak, he rose quietly and said he was sorry that because of his deafness he had missed parts of the Japanese gentleman's remarks. Then he looked up smilingly from his notes and, completely disregarding the anti-American note in his predecessor's speech, he made a very pleasant and good-humored talk.



W.W.

LABOR LEADERS William Green and William Hutcheson, president and vice-president of the A. F. of L., confer at the Seattle meeting of the Federation.

## AFL Decisions

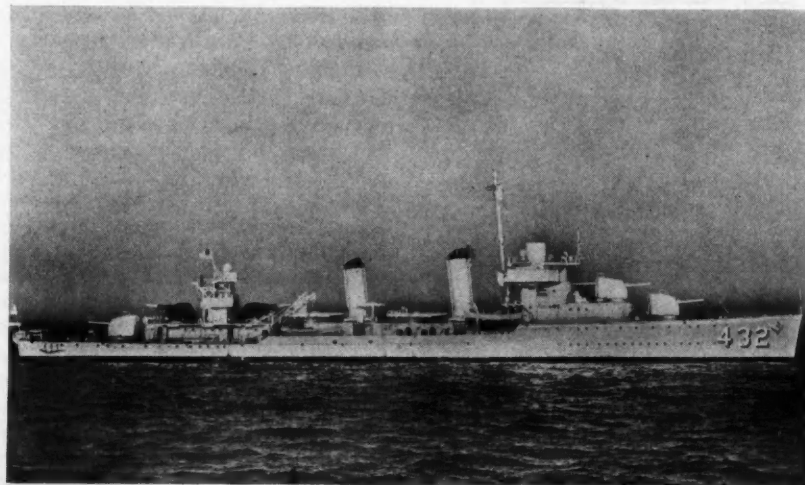
In Seattle at its 61st annual convention last week, the American Federation of Labor re-elected William Green as president for his 18th term and took action on several significant issues facing the nation.

Regarding aid to Russia, the convention endorsed "all material and assistance possible" to that country, but warned against too close an alliance with the Communists since "the teachings and practices of Communism are just as dangerous to the American institutions as in the past."

The AFL also voted all-out support for the defense program, but voiced opposition to any move to lengthen the work week or to freeze wages. Reason for this action was the report that because of priorities 6,000 small plants have been forced to close down completely and 2,000,000 men have already lost their jobs.

To meet charges of racketeering the union ousted one of its vice-presidents, George E. Brown, head of the stagehands' union, who is currently facing an indictment in a New York federal court for extorting large sums of money from the major movie companies.

The convention took a fighting stand against the alleged "raiding tactics" of the CIO in proselyting members. At the same time it held open the door for renewal of peace negotiations between the rival organizations.



OFFICIAL U.S. NAVY PHOTO

FIRST CASUALTY of the war at sea for the U. S. Navy was the U.S.S. *Kearny*, struck by a Nazi torpedo several hundred miles off the coast of Iceland.

## The American Observer

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# The Week Abroad

## Battle for Moscow

As the war on the eastern front entered its fifth month last week, snow fell on the plains that roll toward besieged Moscow. It was only a thin mantle of snow, turned into slush by the drizzle that followed. But to the more than 4,500,000 inhabitants of the Soviet capital, to the quilt-jacketed troops holding the great semicircular defense line

other agricultural goods. The result was that we looked elsewhere for our markets, and Argentina did likewise, turning chiefly to Europe. It was the European war, which shut off Argentina from these markets, that forced the change. Then the Argentines turned to North America. Trade swelled in both directions until we became Argentina's largest customer and supplied the largest proportion of her imports.

The new reciprocal trade agreement represents a general softening of attitude on both sides. Not all the troubles have been ironed out by any means. But our agreement to reduce tariff rates on Argentine canned corn beef, flaxseed, and so on, and Argentina's similar concessions in regard to fruits and certain types of machinery from the United States has made an important start. The fact that the United States recently granted the Argentines a credit of \$110,000,000 has undoubtedly helped matters.

The pact is expected to open a new era in Latin American relations.

## Landing at Archangel

Late in the year 1918 British and American forces landed at Russia's Arctic port of Archangel with the idea of crushing bolshevism. The campaign was a failure. In later years General Sir Edmund Ironside had something to say about Archangel's terrible climate:

The winter campaign in North Russia (1918-19) may well be termed unique in the history of the war. Never before had troops been called upon to fight under such severe climatic conditions. . . . The intense cold and the continual darkness tried even the stoutest heart. Exposure after a wound meant certain death, and to touch metal with the bare flesh was to brand oneself as with a red-hot iron.

The curious noises in the forest in intense cold made sentry duty most trying. Machine guns could only be used in warmed blockhouses; the field of fire might be destroyed in a night by a heavy snow. Flying conditions

were intolerable, even with electrically heated clothing.

Undiscouraged by the failure of the 1918-19 campaign, British troops landed in Archangel once again, this month, but this time to help, rather than to fight the Soviets.

Archangel today is a city of 280,000 people, low, wooden, and desolate, lying along a swampy coast line. From November to May the port and swamps are frozen solid and the city lies in the grip of an immense, brooding silence. During the remainder of the year, however, about 500 or 600 vessels visit the port, which is a lumber center. Huge mounds of sawdust, lumber piled in sheds and in the open, and the shrill whine of saws testify to its normal activity. Two thousand miles by sea from Scotland, Archangel is connected with Moscow by a 600-mile railroad, over which the lumber traffic is quite heavy.

## Japanese Razor

In times as strained as these the United States has a genuine interest in the personality of the premier of Japan. He is an important person. His background, his political ideas and his ambitions concern us very much.

Eiki Tojo, the new premier, is an old army man. Most Japanese premiers have resigned their army commissions on occupying office, but Tojo, on the contrary, found himself elevated from a lieutenant general to a full general at the time he was promoted from the rank of war minister to premier, and he has kept his commission, thus giving the army the strongest voice it has had in a long time in shaping policies of the Japanese government.

General Tojo, of husky build, with a bullet head and a jaw which protrudes sharply beneath his shell-rimmed glasses, is known as "the razor" in Japan by reason of his strictness in military affairs. Fifty-six years old, he has served as ambassador to Berlin and as commander of the Kwantung Army, which patrolled the Siberian border, at various times in the past. His experience has thus been both political and military. Some reporters have labeled him a "pro-Nazi," but this is not quite fair. Tojo espoused the idea of war against China and Russia for



JAPAN'S NEW PREMIER is Lt. Gen. Eiki Tojo, who was minister of war in the Kono cabinet.

many years, but he is a militarist of the old school, and it is more realistic to say that the only country he is "pro" is Japan.

## Trans-Iranian Railway

Three years ago this past August, the last spike was driven into a new railway line across Iran. The engineers who had planned the road were proud, for they had spanned



IRAN RAILROAD may become an important link between Russia and the outside world. The map also shows a proposed motor route.

866 miles, tunneling through two mountain ranges and crossing a blistering desert, at a cost of \$150,000,000. As for the rest of the world, it paid little attention. The new line led from the obscure port of Bandar Shapur on the Persian Gulf to the even more obscure Caspian port of Bandar Shah. Until recently its traffic was light.

Today the shining rails of the Trans-Iranian mark one of the two vital life lines of the Soviet Union, the other being the Trans-Siberian line to Vladivostok. This one, single-tracked line, carries all the goods bound to Russia by way of the Persian Gulf. If Japan should enter the war, it would be the only railway line left open to keep Russia in touch with the world. Goods landed at Bandar Shapur from British and American ships are carried overland to the Caspian Sea, and thence by steamer to Astrakhan and other ports along the north shore of that inland sea.

Because of the great importance of the Trans-Iranian, British and Russians are now working feverishly to increase its capacity. New sidings must be built, new bridges, and new tracks laid. Fortunately the railroad is of standard gauge, which means that British, American, Australian, and Canadian locomotives and rolling stock can be used on it. Some cars are already being switched from Egypt, and port facilities are being enlarged at both ends. In Iran today, a unique sort of battle is being fought. It is a battle fought by engineers trying to make a single railway do the work of three.



Moscow—the embattled Soviet capital

west of the city, to the thousands of civilians who worked day and night to turn Moscow into a barricaded fortress, the first snowfall was a comforting omen of the bitter winter that awaits the German invaders.

The Russians needed what comfort they could get. For their capital was in dire peril. Most government bureaus had been moved eastward to cities far removed from the front lines. A state of siege had been proclaimed by Premier Stalin, providing for a rigid curfew from midnight to early morning. And Hitler, preparing either to assault Moscow in a frontal attack or surround the city for a siege of starvation, had moved seven armies to points only 65 miles from the Kremlin.

In this otherwise grim picture, the one hopeful fact was that Moscow evidently would not fall to the Nazi forces without a struggle. Earlier German claims had made it appear that the Soviet forces in the center of the front had been completely "annihilated" and that Russia was incapable of further "organized" resistance.

With the Moscow battle in doubt, and with Nazis advancing in the south, the Soviets have set up a temporary capital at Kuybyshev, a town on the Volga River, about 550 miles southeast of Moscow.

## Argentine Pact

In the central gold-trimmed hall of Buenos Aires San Martín Palace there was a thin scratching of pens, October 14, at the conclusion of which—for the first time since 1853—the United States and Argentina were linked by a trade treaty.

In the past, commercial relations between these two dynamic American republics have been unsatisfactory. The two republics were like rival salesmen trying to sell the same line of goods to the world and to each other—grains, corn, cereals, and



ARCHANGEL is a cold and bleak Russian port. In order to reach it ships must go north of the Arctic Circle. It is reported that the British have landed an expeditionary force at Archangel.



# New Crisis Looms in the Pacific

(Concluded from page 1)

Japan embarked on this program in earnest with her invasion of North China, in July 1937. China was to be the first of three major steps, meant to include eastern Siberia and the southeastern region, embracing Malaya and the Netherland East Indies. The campaign in China was progressing slowly, but it was progressing nevertheless, when, in September 1939, war broke out in Europe.

To Japanese imperialists, this was a golden opportunity. England and France were tied up in Europe. Russia was watching Germany and obviously not disposed to pick a quarrel in the Far East. Germany and

Italy. But at the same time, to make matters more secure, the Japanese signed a nonaggression pact with Russia.

The immediate reaction to this was ominous. British and Australian troops landed at Singapore. American bombers roared across the Pacific to the Philippines and China, and to naval bases throughout the region. There were American-British-Chinese conferences at Manila. There were talks with the Dutch. Everywhere the Japanese looked they saw a hostile circle of great power tightening around them. The Japanese moderates protested that

Tojo is an army man, and he is known as an advocate of war against Russia. But he is not one of the extremists. He might be called a conservative militarist—one who favors Japanese domination of East Asia, but not at all costs, and not at any risk. He has not stopped the negotiations which have been progressing between the Japanese Embassy and American officials in Washington, and his opening statement on policy was one of studied caution, neither friendly nor warlike.

But since the change was made, United States officials are watching the Pacific with greater concern than

incredibly rich Indies now. The situation there is being watched, just the same.

Today, the Japanese press is giving more attention to Siberia. The impression that Russia is being beaten has given rise to the belief that the moment is close at hand when Japan, with little cost to herself, may be able to wrest the Maritime Provinces of this region from a collapsing Russia. These provinces include Vladivostok, the port and railway terminus which some Japanese have described as a "dagger pointed at Japan's heart."

Eastern Siberia contains considerable wealth in the form of gold and iron, timber and fisheries, but it is not only this wealth that the Japanese are thinking of today. Just as Russia invaded Poland to keep Hitler at a distance, in 1939, the Japanese are considering invading Russia for the same purpose today. If they do not enjoy having Russians in Vladivostok, but 742 miles from Tokyo by plane, they would enjoy the prospect of having Nazis there even less. So Japan has been preparing for military action in the north for some time.

## Military Position

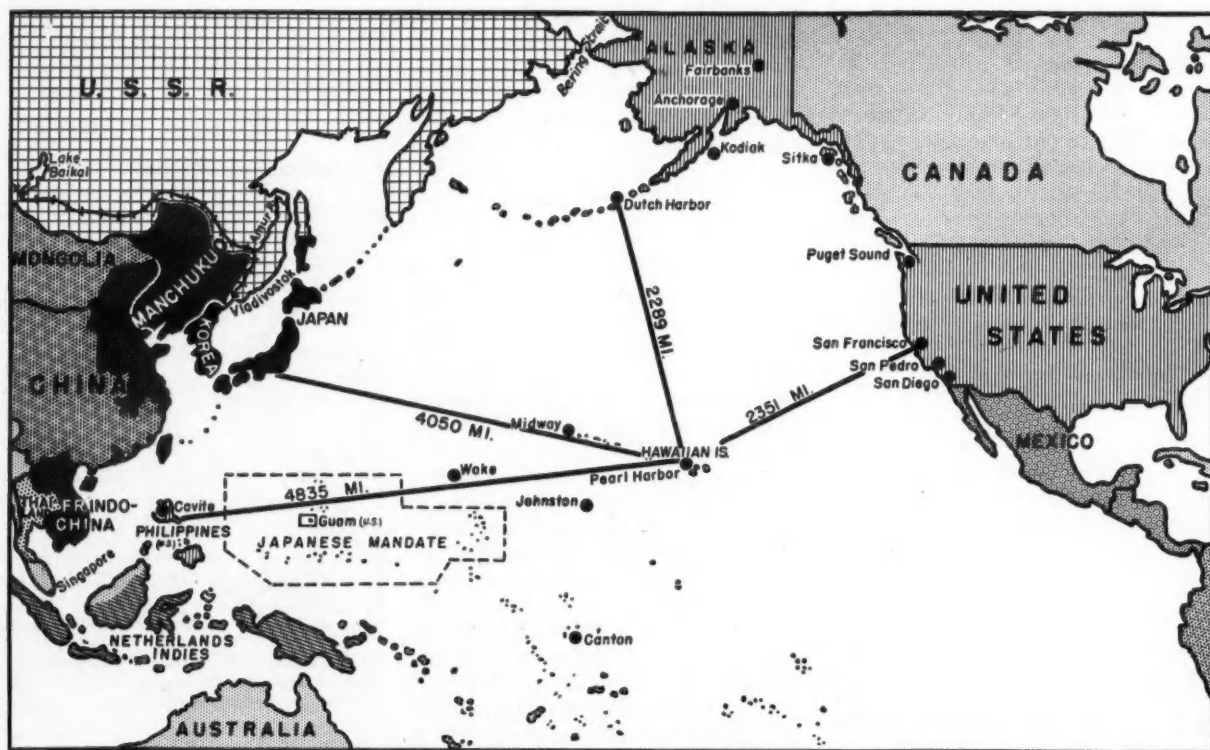
Whether Japan can carry the burden of a war with Russia without losing her foothold in China is a question. Japan's military position is not as happy as was generally believed at the beginning of the year. A few months ago reliable reports of the strength and dispositions of the Japanese army reached Washington. On the basis of these reports, with a few changes made from more recent information, Japan's army now consists of no more than 65 divisions (compare with 55 British and from 250 to 300 German divisions). Of these, there are about 30 in China, and about 25 along the Soviet borders, four or five in Japan proper, and five or six in Formosa, Hainan, and in Indo-China.

Judged by European standards, this is not a very formidable army. There are tank brigades, but not a single mechanized division. There are trained reserves, but there are not supplies to equip them. According to estimates made by Washington officials, Japan cannot equip an army of more than a million men.

Japan's air force consists of between 3,600 and 4,000 planes, about equally divided between the army and navy. Most of these are 1939 models, effective enough against the Chinese, but two years behind those of English, German, Russian, and American make in range, armor, speed, and gun power. This air force is, nevertheless, far and away the strongest in the Far East.

What can Russia put into the field against this force, now that she is so hard-pressed in the west? At the beginning of the Russo-German war, the Soviets maintained 26 infantry, 10 cavalry, and four mechanized divisions—a force superior to the Japanese-Manchukuoan forces both in quantity and quality. But how many of these divisions have been shifted westward is a mystery. Nine or 10 divisions were removed during the summer, and it is believed that the Soviets have no more than 25 divisions of all kinds in eastern Siberia at present, so it is possible that Japan may now be able to concentrate superior forces in the Siberian region.

Whether she will use them now, or wait until later, apparently depends largely on the progress of the war in European Russia.



The Pacific, where Japanese ambitions and American interests conflict.

Italy were both locked up in Europe. The United States was struggling between a desire to remain neutral and a desire to see Hitler beaten. It was paying little attention to the Pacific region.

With virtually every major power in the world wholly or partially occupied with the conflict in Europe, the Japanese found not a single power that seemed willing to fight an all-out Pacific war. But Tokyo hesitated all the same. Cautious statesmen reminded the Tokyo militarists of the danger of a great Pacific coalition, called the ABCD (American, British, Chinese, and Dutch) with perhaps Russia added.

## Vulnerable Japan

Throughout the rest of 1939 and the first half of 1940, fear of this alliance held the Japanese back. Like the British, they were in an exposed position. Japan proper, broken into a scattering of islands, was no larger than California, yet peopled with half the population of the United States. Extremely dependent upon shipping, of which Japan had too little, and fishing, they did not wish to risk a naval war.

But Hitler was growing impatient also. Obviously, if Japan waited until he won the war, she could expect little kindness from him. And so it was, after France fell, that Japan signed the Triple Alliance with Germany and Italy—a pact which bound her to join in the war if the United States should attack Germany or

the government's pro-Axis policy was endangering the security of the nation.

Early this year, the warnings of the Japanese moderates began to take effect. A compromise agreement was reached between the army and the moderate leaders. The army said, "Very well, we will give you a chance—see what you can do." And so negotiations were begun with the United States to see whether some general pacific settlement could not be reached. In the summer, Prince Konoye became premier, and did his best to swing the country toward the path of moderation.

In the meantime, however, the war between Russia and Germany began to change the situation again. As the military leaders of Japan saw Russia weakening, they became impatient. Russia was withdrawing troops from Siberia to bolster her western front. The United States was withdrawing warships from the Pacific to bolster her Atlantic fleet for convoy and patrol work. Once again golden opportunity seemed to be at hand. And it was at this point that Konoye's cabinet resigned, and the government of General Eiki Tojo stepped into office. That is why there was so much excitement during the days immediately following the change of government.

It is too early to say whether, as a result of this cabinet change, the militarists of Japan will now give the signal which will set off a great explosion in the Pacific. General

before. If the Japanese move suddenly, Britain and the United States do not want to be caught napping.

It is possible, of course, that Japan may still move toward Malaya or the East Indies. The presence of some 30,000 Japanese troops in Indo-China, the concentration of 125 bombers and other military aircraft of an unknown quantity along the Thai border of Indo-China, indicate the extent of Japanese interest in that region. Recently the Japanese wrung from helpless Portugal the right to operate a daily air service from the Japanese coral islands of Palau southward across the Dutch East Indies to Portuguese Timor. A daily air service along this 1,200-mile route is a costly undertaking with no possible financial return in sight. Observers are convinced beyond a doubt that its sole purpose is to enable the Japanese to spy on shipping and military developments.

There are Britishers who feel that if the Japanese move at all now, they will move south because of Siberia's intense cold. However, the autumn monsoons have begun to blow in the Indies, piling up great seas and drenching the islands with heavy rains, so the climate there offers no greater attractions than that of Siberia. Strong defenses manned by Dutch, British, and Australian forces, coupled with the fact that Thailand no longer seems anxious to join Japan in aggressive ventures, indicates that Japan would run into trouble if she tried to conquer the



# Neutrality Revision

(Concluded from page 1)

remove the causes of war. In other words, the neutrality law was enacted as a safeguard against American participation in future European wars.

Before we see what these restrictions were, we must examine the traditional American policy; that is, the policy which prevailed from the early days of our history to the time of the enactment of the Neutrality Act of 1935. Then, we can study the changes that were made and which were in effect at the time the present war broke out in Europe.

The "freedom of the seas" policy meant that a neutral nation enjoyed certain rights upon the seas even though other nations were at war. Of course, a neutral nation did not enjoy the same rights in time of war as in time of peace, but it still had the right, under certain conditions, to carry on trade with other neutrals and even with belligerents. Among the rights always claimed by the United States government were the following:

## Freedom of the Seas

1. So long as the United States was a neutral, Americans had the right to trade with belligerents in all goods except war materials. The principal limitation upon this right was this: If one of the belligerents blockaded the ports of the other, our ships and goods could be seized by the blockading power. That was one of the rights of a nation at war and we could not protest.

However, the blockade had to be really effective; that is, enough ships of war had to be kept around the ports to prevent merchant vessels from entering. It was not enough to announce that certain ports were blockaded and not keep a sufficient number of ships in the area to enforce the blockade. This was called a "paper blockade" and was not recognized under the freedom of the seas policy.

2. Americans had the right to sell war materials to belligerent nations if they could "get away with it." But those who sold war goods realized that they did so at their own risk and had no grounds for protest if the ships were captured and the goods seized by one of the belligerents.

3. A belligerent nation had the right to stop an American vessel and search it to see if it were carrying

war supplies to the enemy. If no war materials were on board, the ship was to be permitted to go ahead.

4. American citizens could travel on the ships of the belligerent nations and they could travel freely in the war zones. We recognized that risks were involved, but insisted that a belligerent had no right to sink a merchant vessel without warning and without providing for the safety of passengers and crew. It was because the Germans failed to respect this rule that we protested vehemently to Germany when the *Lusitania*, a British ship, was sunk during the World War, resulting in the loss of scores of American lives.

5. American merchant vessels might carry guns so as to beat off unwarranted attack.

These were some of the principal rights upon which the United States insisted under the traditional policy of freedom of the seas. It was a policy fraught with certain risks, and we frequently became involved in quarrels with belligerents over these rights. Each belligerent was naturally eager to shut off as much trade as possible from his enemy and thus neutral trade was interfered with. Every student of American history is familiar with the conflicts over freedom of the seas which developed during the Napoleonic Wars and which finally resulted in the War of 1812. Germany's interference with American shipping by submarine warfare was indeed one of the principal causes of our participation in the World War.

## Neutrality Act

Because insistence upon our rights as a neutral had been at least partially responsible for our involvement in past wars, there was a strong movement, during the postwar years, to prevent the recurrence of such a thing in the event of another European war. That is why the Neutrality Act was finally passed in 1935. The Neutrality Act was indeed an abandonment of the freedom of the seas policy. We freely gave up many of our rights as a neutral, as can be seen by the following provisions of the act of 1935:

1. Americans were forbidden to sell, under any conditions, war materials to a belligerent.

2. All other goods could be sold only on a cash-and-carry basis; that is, the belligerents must pay cash for them and carry them away in their own ships.

3. American merchant vessels were prohibited from entering war zones; that is, those areas of the sea designated by the President as areas of war.

4. American citizens were forbidden—except under certain circumstances—to travel in war zones or on the vessels of belligerent nations.

5. In times of war, American ships were not to be armed, whether they pass through war zones or not.

These were the prin-



SECRETARY OF STATE HULL (seated at table at left) appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and made a strong plea for revision of the Neutrality Act.

cipal provisions of the neutrality law which was in effect at the time of the outbreak of war in September 1939.

But it was obvious at the outbreak of the war that the American people favored certain changes. Sympathy in this country was strongly in favor of the British and the French and it was felt that the neutrality law was working against those countries. Accordingly, the law was amended so as to permit England and France to buy airplanes and other war materials in this country.

With the fall of France and the threat of British defeat, public opinion in the United States underwent another change. Americans felt that a German victory would be a serious menace to their own security and we embarked upon the policy of aid to Britain as a part of our own defense program. Already one provision of the Neutrality Act had been repealed—that which forbade the sale of war materials. The United States was prepared to make other modifications.

The Lend-Lease Act had the effect of repealing another section of the Neutrality Act because it removed the restriction against anything but cash sales. We declared ourselves the "arsenal of democracy" and stated that our policy was to work for the defeat of Hitler. In effect, we became a nonbelligerent ally of the British and other nations which were fighting Hitler.

Since the passage of the first Lend-Lease Act, we have taken further steps to bring about a Hitler defeat. We have established military bases in Greenland and Iceland. We have ordered our Navy to patrol the sea lanes to Iceland in order that the goods produced here might not be sunk. Finally, the President has ordered to shoot on sight German submarines which might interfere with the safe arrival of our goods.

Revision of the Neutrality Act is considered by the President and his advisers as an essential step in the program of giving effective aid to Britain and thus strengthening our own defenses. The arming of ships is needed as a protection against German submarines and surface raiders, declares the President, and the House of Representatives quickly voted to give him the authorization, and the Senate is expected to do the same in a few days.

The President considers it essential to remove the restriction against the entry of American vessels into com-

bat areas. This issue will come before Congress shortly—as soon as the ship-arming proposal is disposed of. If this section of the Neutrality Act is repealed, American merchant vessels will be able to carry war supplies from our shores directly to British ports.

Those who favor this proposal argue that since it is our national policy to do everything to bring about the defeat of Hitler, and since we are spending billions of dollars for this purpose, it is shortsighted not to see to it that our goods reach their destination in American ships.

No one denies that removal of the restriction on American vessels entering combat areas would increase the risks of war, but contend that we must do everything possible to insure a British victory, however great the risks.

The issue boils down to this: If it is more important to stay neutral than it is to defeat Hitler, the remaining provisions of the Neutrality Act are a safeguard and their removal would increase the dangers of war. If, on the other hand, the defeat of Hitler is the more important objective, the remaining features of the Neutrality Act stand as an obstacle in the way of that objective.

That is the real issue involved in the present debate in Congress. We discussed it fully in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER of September 22 and refer our readers back to that number.

## Something to Think About

### Neutrality Act

1. In what ways did the Neutrality Act of 1935 mark a turning point in the history of American foreign policy?

2. Under the "freedom of the seas" policy, what rights does a neutral enjoy in time of war?

3. What features of the Neutrality Act have already been repealed in effect? Explain how.

4. What feature of the law, in addition to ban on arming merchant vessels, does the President wish to have repealed?

### Japan

1. What brought about the change in Japanese cabinets?

2. How is Japanese policy in the Far East affected by developments in the war in Europe?

3. Compare the military strength of Japan with that of Russia in the Siberian area.

4. What are the principal sources of military weakness in Japan?



"The old neutrality law—he ain't what he never was!"

RUSSELL IN LOS ANGELES TIMES





NOT long ago a Washingtonian was looking at a bound volume of sheet music which had belonged to her mother. In the book she found a copy of "The Star-Spangled Banner" which had been published in Boston the year the Civil War began.

The interesting thing about this copy was that the four stanzas written by Francis Scott Key were followed by a fifth written by Oliver Wendell Holmes. The song seems to have been sung in this form at some patriotic rally during the dark days of 1861.

The fifth stanza, as reprinted in the Washington Post, is as follows:

When our land is illum'd with liberty's smile,  
If a foe from within strike a blow at her glory,  
Down, down with the traitor that dares to defile  
The flag of her stars and the page of her glory.  
By the millions unchained who our birthright have gained,  
We will keep her bright blazon forever unstained!  
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave  
While the land of the free is the home of the brave!

It will be noticed that by changing two words in the last line Holmes has given new meaning to the familiar refrain.

### "The Seven Seas"

"What are the Seven Seas?" Perhaps "Information Please" could answer the question, but Harry Bowling, feature writer for the Los Angeles Times, does not think so. In a recent article Mr. Bowling claimed that this very common expression defies definition. He writes:

Those who delight to delve into musty tomes inform us that the Seven Seas was first mentioned in Brahman mythology. But since the priests of Brahma at that distant date were not navigators it probably referred only to the coast waters of India. Why should we have expanded it to include the Pacific and Atlantic oceans?



(FROM A DRAWING BY LAURENCE IRVING.)

We so often employ the term "sea" when we mean ocean. A sea is a small geographical division of salt water compared with an ocean, yet we make the lesser include the greater in our loosely constructed language. That must be why we have come to speak of the Seven Seas as synonymous with the five oceans.

Actually, of course, there are dozens of seas marked on the map of the world, ranging from such big fellows as the Mediterranean and the Caspian to our own little Salton Sea in Imperial Valley.

### "Flying Wing"

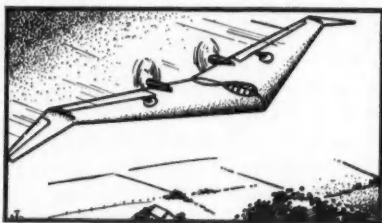
In the far West, far out over the barren sands of the Mojave Desert,

## News and Comment

a queer, batlike ship of the air is being given its flight tests by Army air force pilots.

This plane, called the Northrop Flying Wing, "has neither tail surfaces or fuselage," according to the New York Herald Tribune, "and is a real 'flying wing' resembling in its outline the flying reptiles of the age of dinosaurs."

While the Army air force has released no details of the Northrop plane's construction, the patent drawings show it to be driven by twin motors carrying four-bladed pusher propellers. Both the engines and the pilot house are built into the wing. Since there is no engine cowling or fuselage as in ordinary planes, air resistance in the Northrop has been reduced to a minimum. Actually, every part of the plane



is designed to contribute to the lift.

Its designers believe that the Flying Wing will attain greater speeds than even the swiftest pursuit ships of conventional design. If they are right, the Northrop plane may become one of the strongest sinews in Uncle Sam's air arm.

### Not Easy

Howard Vincent O'Brien, columnist of the Chicago Daily News, describes in moving detail the woes of the writing profession:

Believe it or not—a writer's life is not an easy one. First he has to learn how to write, which is something of a job in itself. Then, having learned how to write, he is sometimes dismayed to discover that he has nothing to write about.

Unless you have seen it at close quarters, you can have no idea how miserable is the plight of the author whose wells of inspiration have dried up. And lucky is the author who does not have to endure periods like this.

On the financial side, the professional author is a pathetic whirlingig. People who don't know the truth speak glibly of what is called an "established" author. But there is really no such thing. All too frequently the best seller is followed by a flop.

Lonely, too, is the life of those who follow the writing game. Not for them is the delegation of labor. Not for them are easy days off, with the serene knowledge that their business is going on as usual.

### Little Things

A walk down Fifth Avenue in New York City, writes John Lear in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, is very different from a walk down the broad avenues of Buenos Aires, Santiago, or Lima. While the streets, the automobiles, and the dress of the people are much the same in these places, an observer immediately notices many striking dissimilarities in social customs. An outstanding difference is the freedom of feminine Americans.

North American women think nothing of walking unescorted through the streets, even at night.

In South America women are shielded from public contact far more than was ever done here at home, and few would think of going to a restaurant or movie alone at night.

South Americans like late dinners. Instead of eating between six or eight in the evening as most American city dwellers do, the people of Buenos Aires, for example, often have their evening meal at nine o'clock or later. They also like tea in the afternoon, and take two hours for lunch almost everywhere.

"It is little things like these," observes Mr. Lear, "and not the romantic things most North Americans think, that make South America different from the United States."

### Soldiers' Reading

Army camp libraries do not have many calls for cheap fiction and other light reading. According to a writer for the Christian Science Monitor who browsed around a camp reading room, the soldiers "were reading histories. Books about the current situation in Europe. They were deep in the many pages of Berlin Diary. They were absorbed in the works of Thomas Mann, Thomas Wolfe, Zola."

Others, looking ahead to jobs in private life or to advancement in the Army, were studying technical subjects. The reporter mentions one:

A story was told of one selectee who was particularly disgruntled with Army life. He was counting the days until his service would be up. Then he was assigned to a technical division where the firing of guns and sighting of targets is worked out mathematically. His attitude changed immediately. Here was a challenge to his intelligence. He became absorbed in the study of a technical subject. He never speaks of getting out now.

The demand for books on the European scene is no greater than the call for works on American history and on European civilization. Good fiction is popular, too.

### Comptroller General

Lindsay C. Warren is at once one of the most important of government officials and one of the least known. Comptroller general of the United States since 1940, Warren was for 16 years a representative from North Carolina and one of the most skilled and popular parliamentarians in Congress. W. B. Ragsdale describes him and his job in the Baltimore Sun:

Lindsay Carter Warren is a tall,



What are the soldiers reading?

solidly built, easy-speaking man with a slow smile, a knack of making friends and such a habit of playing fair that a Republican once called him the "fairest-minded man in the House." As comptroller general, charged with the duty of seeing that government money moves straight down the legal line chalked by Congress at a time when spending is hitting an all-time high, his present job is no sinecure....

The General Accounting Office, administered by Warren, is strewn through 18 buildings in Washington and has 5,500 employees.

The job which Warren holds is unique in the federal government. Outside of the judiciary, which is appointed for life, the term is the longest in the government. It runs for 15 years and a comptroller general is not eligible to reappointment....

A president may appoint a comptroller general, but only Congress can fire him. Like the judiciary, he is removable only through impeachment.

All of this tends to give Warren about the freest hand of any man in the federal government. He is the agent of Congress stationed in the executive department to oversee executive expenditures, to interpret congressional language to executive departments, and make certain that the money is spent for the purpose Congress had in mind. And he has broad powers in the disallowance of expenditures.

### A DEPRESSING EXPERIENCE

(Concluded from page 1)

Are we to turn the fate of the nation over to young people such as these? I think not. I know that thousands, millions, of young men and women in the high schools and colleges of the nation are more than sensation-seekers. They are growing in knowledge, dependability, and responsibility.

But there is no use to blink at the



FAIRCHILD

New York Harbor

fact that millions of others are failing to face their responsibilities. They are growing up physically while remaining mere children in their thinking and in their civic conduct. No use to say, "Oh well, they must assume their responsibility soon enough. Let them have a good time while they are young." Let them have a good time, to be sure, but along with the good times, let there be serious thinking, public spirit, devotion to the common good, patriotic action, by all who are qualified for such activities. And let there also be instilled into youth the common decency of listening attentively to those speakers, entertainers, or any other performers. It was egotism of the highest order for those young people who attended the New York meeting to consider their chatter of greater importance than the words of the prominent leaders who, busy as they are, took their time to appear on this occasion.

### Pronunciations

Bolivar—boe-lee'vahr  
Hainan—hi'nahn—i as in ice  
Konoye—koe-noe'yeh  
Reykjavik—ray'kyah-veek  
San Martin—san' mar-teen'  
Eiki Tojo—ay'kee toe'joe